GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:755
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Begging among Children
Vellaigounder Shri Elumalai

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of children below 15 years of age who are engaged in begging in the country;

(b) whether the population of such children are increasing continuously in the country;

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures/steps taken by the Government to check the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) The Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India has informed that according to the Census 2011, the total population of Beggars, Vagrants etc. below 15 years of age is 45296 which includes the following:

Beggars, Vagrants etc in the age-group 0-14 years (Non workers) Beggars, Vagrants etc. in the age group 5-14 years (Marginal Workers)
41285 4011

(b) & (c) The population of such children has decreased in the country. As per information obtained from Registrar General of India (RGI), the population of Beggars, Vagrants etc. in the age group of 0-14 year (Non-workers) was 107583 during Census 2001 whereas it has declined to 41285 during Census 2011. Further, the population of Beggars, Vagrants etc. in the age group 5-14 years (Marginal Workers) was 5211 during Census 2001 whereas it has declined to 4011 during Census 2011.

(d) The States are responsible for taking necessary preventive and rehabilitative steps. As per available information, 20 States and 2 Union Territories have either enacted their own Anti-Beggary Legislation or adopted legislations enacted by other States/UTs. Presently, there is no scheme of the Central Government on Beggary. National Consultation Meetings were held with the representatives of Central/State Governments, NGOs, Institutes and Individual Experts in the field of Beggary to discuss the issues related to Beggary. In these meetings, it was inter-alia, recommended to explore the feasibility of framing a Central Scheme for rehabilitation of Beggars. Accordingly, a Scheme for Protection, Care and Rehabilitation of Destitutes is under formulation.